Vol. VIII. Numb. 15

THE OBSERVATOR.

Some Objections against what the Observator *said about carrying on the* African-*Trade by a regulated, and not an exclusive Company, answer'd. Remarks on the Murder of Mr.* Dent, *for assisting a Constable to take up lewd Persons. On the Duty of the Cities of* London *and* Westminster *to support their Constables, and such as assist 'em in suppressing Prophaneness and Immorality; and on the Necessity of purging her Majesty's Guards of Ruffians.*

From Saturday, March 19. to Wednesday, March 23. 1709.

Country-m. HEre's a Letter to you, Master, from a Gentleman, expressing an Esteem for your Paper; but he complains, 'That while 'you write so fiercely against the *African*-Com-'pany, you shew'd no Compassion for the great 'Number of Widows and Orphans, and other in-'nocent Persons, who have supply'd that Compa-'ny with great Sums, or purchas'd their Bonds for 'the Sake of Interest, and are now like to be ut-'terly ruin'd, or greatly impoverish'd, if the Com-'pany be dissolv'd, unless some Care be taken of 'them by the great Wisdom of Parliament---. He adds, 'That without Doubt there are a great many 'innocent Persons concern'd in their Stock, who are 'like to be great Sufferers, tho never concern'd in 'the ill Practices of the Company, if any such there 'were: And concludes, That for this Company, 'who have been so much impoverish'd by a long 'and tedious War, to be totally dissolv'd, or ren-'der'd uncapable of ever retrieving their Losses, he 'thinks a very hard Case.

Obs. I am oblig'd to the Gentleman for his good Opinion of my Paper and Design, *Roger*; but as to the *African*-Company, can he or any Man say, that I ever refus'd to hear or take Notice of what they had to say for themselves? They knew how to direct to the Publisher and Printer, as others do. Besides, it will appear by what I have said, that I had no Difference with the Company, or Directors for them. I heartily compassionate their Losses, and those of the Persons he mentions, who are like to be Losers by them. I advis'd to Moderation in the Debates betwixt them and the separate Traders, that they should abstain from hard Words on both Sides, and lay plain Matters of Fact before the Parliament, who are the proper Judges of the Affair. But no Body can justly blame me for shewing more Deference to the Judgment of the Parliament, who laid that Trade open, than to the Suggestions of private Men, or even to the Allegations of the Company. You may remember, that I declar'd at first against all Monopolies in Trade, by Companies, or others, where it can be carry'd on without them; and my Reason is, that Monopolies have ever been complain'd of by all true Patriots, as destructive to Commerce, fatal to the Nation, and subvertive of our free and limited Government. We know, that Monopolies obtain'd by Bribes to greedy Courtiers, had no small Influence in raising those Discontents in the Nation, that brought on the Civil War. We have also too just Cause to remember the Divisions that were inflam'd amongst us in Parliament, and otherwise, by the Struggles betwixt the old and new *East India* Companies in the Reign of the late King *William*, of glorious Memory; and we don't know what fatal Effects other Monopolizing Societies may still have upon our Peace and Safety; so that upon the whole, those Gentlemen may see, that in this Matter, I have acted according to those Principles of Liberty, which I have always defended.

Country-m. I am satisfy'd of that, Master; and if they be impartial, they may be satisfy'd too.

Obs. But farther, *Roger*, the Parliament Doors are open, where the Persons mention'd by that Gentleman, may lodge their Representations, and no Doubt expect an equitable Decision. The Writer of that Letter knows, that Judges are forbid by the divine and infallible Legislator, to have any Respect to the poor Man in his Cause, but are to determine according to Justice. The Question is not, whether any Number of poor and innocent People are like to suffer by the Dissolution of the Company; but whether it be more for the Advantage of the Nation, that the *African*-Trade should be carry'd on by a regulated or an exclusive Society; and the Gentleman and the Company too must own, that the Good of the whole must be prefer'd to that of Particulars. Nor are they to doubt, but our Parliament will duly weigh the Arguments on both Sides; and that if it appear to them, that the Trade to *Africa*, and what other Branches of Commerce depend upon it, must be lost to the Nation, if they be not manag'd by an exclusive Society, the general Good will oblige them to determine in Favour of the Company; but if it appear, that the Trade can certainly be carry'd on more to the publick Advantage by a regulated Society, no Doubt they will determine for them; and since, as I have said already, a former Parliament has determin'd it so; and that by the Report of the Lords Commissioners for Trade, the Fact appears to be on their side, no Body can justly charge me with Partiality in what I have said, since my Opinion in the Matter is to be directed by the Sentence of those who are both Judges and Jury in the Case.

But as to those who are like to be Sufferers, if the Company be dissolv'd, I not only wish, that Means could be found to compensate their Damage, but the Damages of all other Traders that are not able to bear the Losses they have sustain'd during this tedious and expensive War; and if no Body pretends, that I know of, to rob the Company of their Property, why may not the Money they shall have for their Forts, &c. be appropriated to that Use? Or why may not such of the Company, as have got Estates by the Trade, be oblig'd to contribute towards it: especially if any of them be found guilty of ill Practices: which I perceive, by the Gentleman's Letter, he does not think impossible; tho' I shall not say it or deny it is not? Or what if a small Duty were laid on all Traders to that Country, towards it, if it be found that after deducting the Charge of maintaining Forts, and the Expence of such, as those who are for a regulated Trade, propose, shall superintend it, the Thing be practicable? But all this must be submitted to the Determination of Parliament, upon hearing both Sides: and there I leave it.

Country-m. I think you are in the Right, Master; but give me Leave to say, that I also am of Opinion, that 'tis but reasonable, that those who have got over grown Estates by managing the publick Money, or beneficial Posts during this War; especially such as by Neglect, or otherwise, have contributed to the Losses of our Traders, for Want of Convoys, &c. should be tax'd in Proportion to their Profits, for the Relief of those Traders that are not able to bear their Losses. *Obs.*

Obſ. You had as good talk of building Caſtles in the Air, *Roger*; for no Body will own they have been guilty of any Neglect, or have got unreaſonable Profits; and they that have, know how to make Uſe of 'em to defend themſelves from any ſuch Propoſal. We have but few ſuch honeſt Traytors as *Judas* now in the World, as will both hang themſelves, and reſtore the Price of innocent Blood, which once made ſome over-grown Bigots to form a Sect to worſhip him as a Saint.

Country-m. I have a dismal Story to tell you, Maſter, of the Murder of Mr. *John Dent*, that had the general Character of a very honeſt Man, being one that contributed very much, for ſeveral Years, to proſecute and convict diſorderly Houſes, common Night-Walkers, prophane Swearers, Drunkards, Sabbath-Breakers, and ſuch like: and who being call'd to the Aſſiſtance of a Conſtable, was barbarouſly murder'd in *Covent-Garden* on Friday Night laſt by three Soldiers of the Foot Guards, who attempted to reſcue a lewd Woman from the Conſtable and his Aſſiſtants; when they alſo wounded the Conſtable, and ſwore to murder him and all his Aſſiſtants, which no doubt they would have done, had they not been made to ſcour for it, and one of 'em taken on the Spot: Since which, the other two were deliver'd up by the Captain of the Guard. There's the whole Story, Maſter, with the Particulars, in the *Flying-Poſt* and *Poſt-Boy*, pray give me your Opinion of it.

Obſ. I think it to be one of the moſt barbarous Murders, and one of the moſt audacious Affronts to Authority, that ever was heard of, *Roger*; therefore the Captain of the Guards is highly to be commended for ſurrendering thoſe Villains that eſcap'd, to Juſtice, without any Heſitation. The Judgment of God upon them is remarkable, that they ſhould not have run quite away, inſtead of going to the Guard: But innocent Blood, eſpecially that of a Man, who was murder'd for ſerving God and the Queen, has a loud Cry, and the Divine Juſtice will ſee it reveng'd. I am ſorry, however *Roger*, that in a Chriſtian Nation Wickedneſs ſhould appear to have Priv'd, as to bid Defiance to the Laws of God and Man: and that ſuch Perſons as Mr. *Dent*, who, out of a heroick Zeal for both, endeavour to put a Stop to open Profaneneſs and Immorality, ſhould not only be liable to have their good Names baſted, as if they were malicious Informers, or Men of ill and ſecret Deſigns, notwithſtanding ſo many convincing Proofs to the contrary, but likewiſe be liable to be murder'd. 'Tis high Time for the Juſtices of the Nation to interpoſe againſt ſuch Outrages upon all Laws, Human and divine; for if the Conſtables of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and ſuch as are call'd, or come voluntarily out of Zeal to their Aſſiſtance, be inſulted either *to be beſtor'd in the Execution of their Office into ignominious and unjuſt Submiſſions, or to be aſſaulted and murder'd*, no Man's Perſon or Eſtate can be ſafe, eſpecially in ſuch large and populous Cities, where vile and diſſolute Perſons have ſo many unhappy Opportunities of ſacrificing the Bodies and Souls of themſelves and others to their wicked Inclinations. I hope the Government of both Cities will take Care from this, and other fatal Warnings, to ſupport their Conſtables, and thoſe who aſſiſt them, againſt all ſuch Inſults. Such worthy Perſons, as with a Zeal like that of *Phineas*, ſtep in betwixt the Living and the Dead, to execute Juſtice upon daring Offenders, in order to put a Stop to deſolating judgments, of which we may look upon the preſent War to be one, and the threatning Seaſon to be another, ought rather to be the Darlings of the Nation, than the Objects of Reproach and Outrage. Our Honourable Commons have lately had an Opportunity of ſhewing their juſt Reſentments againſt ſuch as took Methods that had a natural Tendency to raiſe Mobs; ſo that there's no Doubt, but upon due Application, our Legiſlature will take Care to make new Laws, and inforce old ones, for preventing ſuch growing Abominations.

Country-m. I am of your Opinion, Maſter; but for my own Part, I cannot ſee what Reaſon we have to expect a ſafe and honourable Peace, or Exemption from War, and other deſolating Judgments, while Reformation of Manners is made an Object of Scoffs and Taunts; while lewd Players are ſuffer'd, under the Name of her Majeſty's Servants, to debauch our Morals, by running down all Religion, and repreſenting ſuch Things in Publick, as no Chriſtian ought to mention in private; while ſuch infernal Rendezvouzes of diſſolute People are ſuffer'd at *May-Fair*; and while ſuch Heaven-daring Villains are ſuffer'd to be in her Majeſty's Guards. It griev'd me to the Heart, Maſter, when I ſaw the Trophies of our glorious Victory at *Hochſtedt*, &c. carry'd thro' the City in Triumph, to ſee the People point at ſeveral of the Fellows that had the Honour to carry them, and hear one ſay, There goes a Sweetner; another, There goes a Pick-pocket; and a third, There goes a Faggot with Trophies, that I am ſure would never venture their Lives in the Field to take them from the Enemy; and when I enquir'd into the Meaning of thoſe Things, the People told me, they were Fellows that were hir'd only to appear on Muſter-days, and liv'd by being Bullies, Shop-Lifts, Pick-pockets, Rouly-poulys, &c. while ſome Body elſe pockets their Pay. I alledg'd that could not be true, Maſter; but was told by ſeveral People who liv'd near a Thief-Catchers, that they ſaw thoſe Fellows frequently there, about ſuch Buſineſs as you may eaſily gueſs.

Juſt publiſh'd, the Eleventh Part of

Poetical Reflections, Moral, Critical, Satyrical, &c. on the Vices and Follies of the Age. Containing, 1. A Ballade, to the Lord Haliſax. 2. A New-Year's Gift, in a Dirge or Lamentatory Poem to a Chriſtening Kinſman and God-ſon of mine, againſt immoderate Drinking. 3. A Satyr againſt Love and Woman. 4. A Song, to the Tune of the Dame of Honour. 5. Verſes found upon a Tomb in Weſtminſter-Abbey. 6. Abigail's Lamentation for the Loſs of her Miſtreſs's Secretary. 7. The Dream, from the French. 8. On Sir H. D---n C---r's being diſmember'd by 12 Voices. 9. High-Church; or, the Croſs above the Crown. 10. On his Governeſs. 11. On his Confident. 12. A Pindarick Ode to both Houſes of Parliament, in behalf of the poor inſolvent Debtors. By ſeveral Hands. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6d. where may be had all the former Parts, at 6d. each.

To Morrow will be publiſh'd,

Bickerſtaff Reviv'd; or, Predictions for the Year 1709. With the Author's Defence of his laſt Year's Calculation, particularly againſt Mr. Partridge's Aſſertion in an Almanack for this preſent Year; wherein 'tis averr'd, he is ſtill alive; which is prov'd to be an Error. By Iſaac Bickerſtaff, Eſq; Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 1d.

The Scourge of Venus and Mercury, repreſented in a Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe, together with an Appendix in anſwer to Mr. John Marten's Confeſſions thereupon. By Jo. Shadwell, M. D. Phyſician in Phyſick. Price of the Appendix alone 1s. and 6d. together 3s. 6d. Sold by R. Goſſelin at the Meuſe in Fleet-ſtreet, W. Carter at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Phillips at the Black Bull in Cornhill, H. Rhodes at the Crown near Cecil-ſtreet in the Strand, B. Picard at the 3 Kettles in the Minories, J. Nutt at the Poſt-Houſe in St. Martins-le-grand, J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, and by the Author at his Dwelling-houſe (late the Duke of Leeds's) in high Holborn, over againſt little Turn-ſtile.

The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Boles, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, that ſhall be call'd by other Practitioners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 6 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying or owing for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that Big-bellyed Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N.B. The Bill at large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

LONDON, Printed for the Uſe of the Widow of the late Author, JOHN TUTCHIN.